

House Republican Press Release

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“Pocket Bike” Bill Passes House of Representatives



Scribner & Giegler Supports Ban on Dangerous Under-sized Motor Bikes

HARTFORD- The state house of Representatives today voted 135-6 in favor of legislation authored by Representative David Scribner (R-Brookfield) to create a ban on so-called “pocket bikes,” noting the evidence that shows such bikes are unsafe in common traffic, and are difficult to see from the perspective of motorists in cars and trucks. Representative Jan Giegler (R-Danbury) also supported the measure.

The bill defines a mini-motorcycle and prohibits their use on any highway, public sidewalk, or state property. It also prohibits the use of mini-motorcycles on private property without the written permission of the owner of the property. Failure of the rider to carry written permission is an infraction for both the person riding, and the owner of the bike.

If an infraction is alleged, the enforcement officer may take possession of the mini until the case has final disposition. If it takes over 180 days for the case to be disposed, the agency may sell the mini. The bill requires a warning label and written statement detailing the law and safe use of minis, for persons selling five or more minis in a calendar year, with each mini they sell.

“These pocket bikes are a clear hazard, posing enormous safety risks to those who use them, and other motorists who use the roads, and also to any pedestrians on a sidewalk,” said **Representative Scribner**. “These bikes are so small and below the frame of sight for almost any motorist, that a pocket bike rider could be crushed by a normal-sized vehicle before its operator even knew they were there. These aren’t the kinds of vehicles that should be on our roads.”

“The concerns over these pocket bikes have long been a concern in Danbury,” said **Representative Giegler**. “This measure is important to ensure the safety of individuals who would ride such vehicles, as well as all motorists.”

The bill now heads to the state Senate for action there. The regular session of the General Assembly will conclude on midnight, June 8th, 2005.

